

## OIL MOUNTAINS ARE TO SOLVE MOST ACUTE PROBLEM

EASTERN UTAH SHALES COME INTO LIMELIGHT.

Enough In This Section of the State and Western Colorado to Supply Gasoline For Generations to Come—Government Expert Gives Out Some Most Amazing Figures.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 19.—Petroleum may be a wasting asset for the United States, so far as free oil pumped or flowing from nature's underground reservoirs is concerned, but we have right here in the United States a source of petroleum greater than—perhaps double—the total crude oil remaining underground in the whole world. The result of a decline in natural petroleum production in this country, then, does not mean, necessarily, that we will be at the mercy of such outside nations as may control the balance of the world's oil fields. Instead, it only means the beginning in this country of a new industry that will give employment to thousands; the building of new towns in regions now sparsely settled; the erection of great plants and the development of industrial activities in areas far removed from present centers of industry. The answer to decreasing production of natural oil is the increased production of shale oil. In Northwestern Colorado, in Northwestern Utah, in Southwestern Wyoming and in Northern Nevada lie enormous mountains of shales holding, as a blotter holds ink, more petroleum than nature stored away in oil pools in the whole world.

To a lesser extent Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan and West Virginia hold deposits of oil shales. Oil shales consist largely of fossil organic debris and the decomposition of plant and animals, largely aquatic. These fossil organic deposits are high in hydrogen content and, when subjected to heat, yield large proportions of volatile matter which may be condensed as oil. That the production of oil from shale is practicable has been proven in Scotland, where the annual production from Scotch shales has, for several years, been around two million barrels annually. The average yield of Scotch shale is twenty-two gallons of petroleum per ton of shale treated. D. E. Winchester, who has mapped most of Uncle Sam's deposits for the government, reports that in Colorado and Utah alone there is enough shale capable of yielding twenty-two gallons or better per ton to provide a minimum of forty billion barrels of crude petroleum, containing five billion barrels of gasoline. Other regions, he also estimates, would make the total petroleum available from American shales between eighty and a hundred billion barrels.

Just what this means may be understood by recalling that to date all petroleum produced in the United States is less than six billion barrels, and that the total estimated free petroleum in the world is between forty and fifty-three billion barrels. As soon as the price of natural crude crosses the line where petroleum from shale can be produced at a profit, these vast new reserves will begin to flow into the market as a stabilizing factor. Just what that price line would be, officials now are unable to state. Not long, at before war wage scales, was able to compete with importations of American petroleum with her shale oil.

One test plant for experimentation in shale oil distillation is now being built in Colorado by the department of interior. A number of private companies have been formed in Colorado and in Utah. The likelihood is that within five years a mammoth industry for converting our mountains into oil may be under way. We have, then, in our mountains, literally a "mountain of strength" with which to combat any attempted throttling of American development through outside control of the world's free petroleum reserves.

"These forms," says David White, chief geologist for the government, "an enduring asset, sufficient to sustain an enormous ultimate load for an indefinite period."

### AUTO AND CIVIC BODIES TO TALK OVER GOOD HIGHWAYS

Representatives of all the automobile organizations, civic and commercial clubs and taxpayers of the state are invited to attend the convention at Salt Lake City, October 10th, to discuss good roads. Subjects to be discussed are:

"Should the present system of a state highway commission be changed into a non-partisan board—in order to eliminate politics as far as possible from roadbuilding?"

"Should all taxes on automobiles, including the present personal property tax, be used in road construction and road maintenance?"

"Should the proposed constitutional amendment to increase the state's bonding limit for additional highway funds be supported?"

Under the present plan in Utah the members of the Utah highway commission are the governor, secretary of

state, the attorney general, auditor, treasurer and state engineer, necessitating with each change in administration the personnel of the commission.

By taking the commission out of politics it would give to the work of constructing highways a continuity essential to the best interests of the state.

### TAX NOTICES GOING FORWARD

Levy This Year Is Two Mills Higher Generally Than Last.

H. S. Robinson, treasurer of Carbon county, last Monday began sending out tax notices for the present year. There are about nine thousand and five hundred of them, a slight increase over last year. An extra force of help is working for a few days. The county commissioners fix the tax levy, which is eighteen and a half mills as against 16.50 mills last year, an increase of two mills. Taxpayers will also discover that their assessed valuations are considerably in excess of those for 1919—in many instances doubled.

The commissioners when sitting as a board of equalization, it may be said, paid little or no attention to complaints filed with them. Many persons who appeared in person or by attorney were treated with indifference, scoffed or entirely ignored in the matter of complaint. Two of the commissioners, however, lowered their own valuations over what they were last year.

The state and state school levy this year is five mills; state roads, 2.50; county general, 1.80; county schools, 7; county roads, .30; county poor, .40; bond interest, .70; and bonding fund, .80 mills. In addition here at Price the city levy is nineteen mills; Wellington, 17.99; Seofield, four; Hixson, six; Sunnyside, four, and at Castle Gate, four mills. State special bounty tax on sheep and on goats is five mills; range horses and cattle, four, and domestic cattle, one mill.

Taxes are now due and payable and become delinquent after November 30th, next. After that date a penalty of 1 per cent of the taxes due is added.

### CHRISTMAS SEALS SALES PLAN IS NOW ANNOUNCED

Plans are now being made by the Utah Public Health association for the sale of Christmas seals from which funds are derived for the financing of the association's health program in this state. The association has a definite program for next year, which is grouped about six different lines of endeavor. They are to introduce public health nursing throughout the state and to put into operation the modern health crusade in all the schools of the state. The crusade is a voluntary health habit-forming program operated on a competitive basis. There are between six and seven million enthusiastic crusaders in the United States; to demonstrate and promote personal hygiene and correct living; to make surveys of local health conditions and organize local committees to remedy them; to make a concentrated effort to diminish the fifteen hundred active cases of tuberculosis in Utah; to establish child welfare and other clinics wherever possible. One hundred and sixty-nine deaths from tuberculosis were reported in this state last year. As a means of offsetting this deathrate, the association has placed three public health nurses in the field, whose duty has been to educate people in preventive measures and to report cases of disease to the proper agencies for caring for them.

### UTAH PEST COMMISSION HAS EXCEEDED APPROPRIATIONS

The crop pests commission of Utah has expended the fifty-six hundred dollar appropriation made for it by the thirteenth legislature and in addition the sum of \$1034.52 of a deficit of four thousand dollars allowed the commission by the state board of ex-ministers. These figures are taken from an audit of the department by State Auditor Bjelle, covering the period from January 1st to August 31st of the current year. Fees collected during the period named aggregated \$188.40, which included a balance of \$84.35 on January 1, 1925. The expenditures include the salary of the crop pests inspectors to August 31st, amounting to \$3740 and clerical services in the same date of \$1303.33. No recommendations are made by the auditor regarding the bureau.

### THREE DENIED PAROLES

Among the prisoners paroled by the state board of pardons at its meeting last Saturday was George D. Odekerk, once a prosperous business man of Duchesne, and who was sentenced last August on a statutory charge. It is said that he has lost most of his property as well as his reputation. He is the father of a large family and has a promise of employment. These facts influenced the board in granting leniency. The woman in the case has not been prosecuted, and is said to be financially the gainer as the result of her intimacy with Odekerk. Petitions for clemency denied prisoners from Carbon county included H. C. Christensen, for assault; L. J. Labonte, statutory charge; D. O. Tullis and G. K. Karvaratis, each grand larceny.

### SHIPMENTS FALL OFF

Shipments of potatoes from Utah during August aggregated a hundred and twenty-three cars as compared

with one hundred and thirty-two in August of 1919 and eighty-one in July of this year. The total shipments thus far this year amount to a hundred and ninety-nine cars. Last August there was one car of cabbage shipped from the state, the total in 1919 being fourteen cars. The figures are given out by M. M. Justin, agricultural statistician for the department of agriculture.

The man who overrates his ability generally learns when too late that he had none to overrate.

Whenever we hear a fellow talking about his brains we wonder just how badly scrambled they are.

**NOTICE TO WATER CREEKS—STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 17, 1926.** Notice is hereby given that Peter Barboglio of Price, Utah, has made application in accordance with the requirements of the Compiled Laws of Utah, 1917, as amended by the Session Laws of Utah, 1919, to appropriate twenty-five hundredths (.25) of a second-foot of water from Horse Canyon Creek in Carbon county. Said water will be diverted at two points, namely: north 23 deg. 20 min. east 2187 feet, and south 47 deg. 39 min. west 1360 feet from the southwest corner of Sec. 24, Twp. 15 South, Range 14 East, Salt Lake base and meridian. The water will be collected by means of open drain tile and conveyed in a pipeline a distance of 15,000 feet, where it will be used the entire year for the irrigation of forty acres of land embraced in the south half southwest quarter of Sec. 4, Twp. 14 South, Range 14 East. This application is designated in the state engineer's office as No. 2608. All protests against the granting of said application, stating the reasons therefor must be made by affidavit in duplicate, accompanied with a fee of \$2.50, and filed in this office within thirty (30) days after the completion of the publication of this notice. G. F. McCONAGLE, State Engineer.

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